

REMARKS

As a preliminary manner, Applicant and Applicant's representatives would like to thank Examiner Alicia Duggins and her Supervisor, Andrew Faile, for the courtesies extended during the personal interview conducted on January 19, 2005.

During the interview, a general discussion was held regarding the differences between the applied prior art and the present invention. Proposed claims were discussed during the interview which the Examiner agreed appeared to overcome the applied prior art. Applicant notes that the claims presented in this amendment are similar to the claims discussed during the interview, and therefore, submits that such claims overcome the applied prior art.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 9-37 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been canceled by this amendment. Applicant notes that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

Applicant also notes that a replacement sheet is being submitted herewith for Fig. 1. In the replacement sheet, an "error check unit 14" is added to the drawing. Support for the addition of the error check unit can be found on page 43, lines 9-12 of the specification.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Talluri et al. ("A Robust, Scalable, Object-Based Video Compression Technique for Very Low Bit-Rate Coding").

Claims 1-8 have been canceled by this amendment and are replaced with new claims 9-37 in order to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art reference applied by the

Examiner. Therefore, the above-noted rejection is submitted to be inapplicable to the new claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 9 recites the feature of a concealer operable to conceal a first concealment area and a second concealment area, wherein when an error is included in the bitstream, the concealer is operable to conceal the first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and is operable to conceal the second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error. Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious at least this feature of claim 9.

Talluri discloses a coding apparatus which utilizes error concealment techniques to conceal errors included in shape data, motion vector data, and DCT data (see page 229, section B). In particular, Talluri discloses different error concealment techniques which are used for different types of data. In other words, depending on the type of data in which the error is included (e.g., shape data, motion vector data, or DCT data), a different type of concealment process is utilized (see last line of right hand column of page 229 through line 10 of left hand column of page 230).

Thus, while Talluri discloses the utilization of different concealment processes based on a type of data, Talluri does not disclose or suggest that a particular concealment process is utilized based on the error that is detected.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious that when an error is included in the bitstream, a concealer is operable to conceal a first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and is operable to conceal a second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error, as recited in claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Claims 10-15 depend from claim 9 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 16 is drawn to a decoding apparatus which includes the features of an error check unit operable to detect a first error, and a decoder operable to detect a second error, wherein the decoding apparatus performs different decoding processes based on whether the first error is detected or the second error is detected. Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features.

As noted above, Talluri discloses a coding apparatus which utilizes different concealment techniques based on the type of data in which an error is detected. Accordingly, as a concealment technique in Talluri is chosen based on the type of data, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri does not disclose or suggest performing different decoding processes based on whether the error is a first error detected by an error check unit or a second error detected by a decoder, as recited in claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 16 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Claims 17-26 depend from claim 16 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 27 is drawn to a moving picture decoding method and recites that when an error is included in a bitstream, concealing a first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and concealing a second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error. For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 27 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Claims 28-30 depend from claim 27 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 31 is drawn to a moving picture decoding method and recites that when an error is included in a bitstream, concealing different concealment areas based on whether the error is a first error or a second error. For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 31 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Claims 32-35 depend from claim 31 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 36 is drawn to a computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon and recites that when an error is included in a bitstream, concealing a first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and concealing a second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error. For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 9 and 27, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 36 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 is drawn to a computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon and recites that when an error is included in a bitstream, concealing different concealment areas based on whether the error is a first error or a second error. For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 16 and 31, Applicant respectfully submits that Talluri

fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 37 is patentable over Talluri, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Shinya KADONO

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicant

KWF/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 26, 2005